

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3715

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7674

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: TARAPUR

1. THERE FOLLOWS A PAPER ON TARAPUR AND NON-PROLIFERATION WHICH THE AMBASSADOR LEFT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY MAY 27.

2. BEGIN TEXT: I AM SURE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER APPRECIATES GREATLY THE PRIME MINISTER'S FINE LETTER, WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON YOUR SHARED OBJECTIVE OF CONTROLLING DANGEROUS FORMS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. AS YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT HAS DECLARED THE ULTIMATE ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONRY TO BE HIS GOAL AND HE IS SEEKING TO MOVE OUR COUNTRY AND THE OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS IN THAT DIRECTION.

3. I AM AUTHORIZED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF MY GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO RECOMMEND TO OUR NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE PENDING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE FUEL REQUIRED FOR TARAPUR. TO THIS END, HOWEVER, I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REQUEST FROM YOU CERTAIN ASSURANCES.

4. THE PRESIDENT RECOGNIZES THAT US-SUPPLIED FUEL FOR TARAPUR IS UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS AND THAT THERE IS ALSO AN AGREE-
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MENT BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS THAT THIS MATERIAL WILL NOT BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE EXCEPT THE OPERATION OF TARAPUR REACTORS WITHOUT OUR GOVERNMENT'S PRIOR CONCURRENCE. AT THE SAME TIME, SINCE THE EXPLOSION OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR DEVICE IN 1974, THERE ARE ELEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES--SOME QUITE INFLUENTIAL--WHO ARE HIGHLY CRITICAL AND SUSPICIOUS ABOUT ANY US NUCLEAR SUPPLY TO INDIA. FOR THIS REASON, THE PRESIDENT HAS

ASKED ME TO OBTAIN YOUR CONFIRMATION THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXISTING AGREEMENTS, ANY MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY THE US FOR TARAPUR WILL NOT BE USED IN A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. AN ORAL CONFIRMATION TO ME IS ALL THAT HE ASKS.

5. MY GOVERNMENT ASKS, FURTHER, THAT THE GOI AGREE TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US ON NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES. THESE PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONCEIVED ON TWO LEVELS. ONE INVOLVES A SET OF LARGELY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISPOSITION AND/OR STORAGE OF THE SPENT FUELED OF THE TARAPUR REACTORS AND SAFEGUARDS FOR THE HEAVY WATER WE HAVE SUPPLIED FOR THE CIRUS AND RAPP REACTORS. THE OTHER LEVEL OF NEGOTIATION WOULD INVOLVE BROADER PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE NEW US NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY AND FURTHERANCE OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES THAT WE SHARE. I TRUST THAT I MAY HAVE YOUR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO THE INITIATION OF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS.

6. FINALLY, I WISH TO EMPHASIZE A NUMBER OF GENERAL UNDERLYING OBJECTIVES AND CONCERNS OF MY GOVERNMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WE ENVISAGE.

(A) MY GOVERNMENT IS GENUINELY EAGER TO ASSIST INDIA IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY, INCLUDING NUCLEAR ENERGY, BUT THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN ABOUT THE HEIGHTENED DANGERS IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF PLUTONIUM-BASED NUCLEAR ENERGY IS VERY DEEP, AS YOU KNOW.

(B) THEREFORE, MY GOVERNMENT FEELS THE NEED FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RESPECTIVE APPROACHES TO NUCLEAR ISSUES, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND THE NEED FOR SOME DEGREE OF COOPERATION IN ADVANCING OUR NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES.

(C) IN REQUESTING THESE NEGOTIATIONS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT, MY GOVERNMENT IS NOT ASKING OR EXPECTING THAT INDIA WILL COME TO FOLLOW EXACTLY IN OUR FOOTSTEPS, OR ASSUME PRECISELY THOSE SAME CONSTRAINTS THAT WE HAVE ADOPTED AND WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS PROPOSED IN HIS RECENT MESSAGE ON NUCLEAR MATTERS.

(D) INSTEAD, WE WISH TO EXPLORE WITH YOU HOW WE CAN PERHAPS, WORKING IN PARALLEL IF NOT IN UNISON, INSURE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS ON EXISTING AND PROSPECTIVE NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND MATERIALS, AND ON CONTROL OF EXPORTS, SO THAT WE CAN MOVE TOGETHER TOWARD OUR ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE, WHICH YOU HAVE SO WELL DESCRIBED AS A "WORLD IMMUNIZED AGAINST THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR MISUSE". END TEXT.

7. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO THE SECRE-

TARY IN PARIS.
GOHEEN

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